

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First named inventor: John A. Baumann

Docket No. 03-0822

Serial No.10/698,215

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Examiner: Hadi Shakeri

Art Unit: 3723

Title: RECONFIGURABLE CLAMPING SYSTEMS

Confirm. No. 1498

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT DATED MARCH 2, 2010

A response to the previous office action was filed on April 30, 2009. Nine months later, the Patent Office mails a notice of non-compliant amendment, alleging that the response added claims 65 and 66, but did not indicate whether they read on the elected species of Figure 1 and subcombination group 1 in accordance with the restriction requirements dated July 28, 2005 and October 9, 2007.

We respectfully disagree. The remarks in the response indicate that new claims 65 and 66 are generic claims, just as claims 62-64 are generic claims.

Moreover, there are four restriction requirements in this application, not two. Here is a summary.

The office action dated June 22, 2005 required restriction between claims drawn to a clamping system and claims drawn to a clamping method. The system claims were elected.

The office action dated July 28, 2005 required restriction between allegedly different species illustrated in Figures 1, 3A, 4 and 5A, 7 and 8. The species of Figure 1 was elected was elected on Sept. 12, 2005, and again on Oct. 5, 2005 and once again on Dec. 5, 2005.